

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12597 292003Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----008083 300251Z /64  
R 291954Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6663

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12597

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, UK  
SUBJECT: BRITISH MINISTER COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANK JUDD WHO IS FONSEC OWEN'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY AND ALSO IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDEAST AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED TO DCM JULY 28 CONCERNS ABOUT PROSPECTS IN THE AREA. EMPHASIZING HIS "DEEP MORAL COMMITMENT" TO SECURITY OF ISRAEL, HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT A SETTLEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY GREATER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. IF REAL PROGRESS IS NOT MADE THIS YEAR, HE FEARED MODERATE ARAB LEADERS WHO HAD INVESTED SO MUCH IN NEGOTIATIONS -- PARTICULARLY SADAT -- WOULD BE REPLACED BY THOSE MORE INCLINED TO RESORT TO FORCE. MOREOVER, IN JUDD'S VIEW, ROLE OF PLO IS CRUCIAL, AND HE SEES NO CHANCE FOR PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL A WAY IS FOUND TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THEM.

2. JUDD UNDERLINED THAT MIDEAST ISSUES ARE SO IMPORTANT THEY DEMANDED SOLIDARITY AMONG WESTERN ALLIES, BUT AT SAME TIME HE WONDERED WHETHER THERE MIGHT ALSO BE SCOPE FOR UK INITIATIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, JUDD SAID, HE IS PLANNING AN OFFICIAL TRIP TO LEBANON. KUWAIT AND IRAQ IN OCTOBER AND WOULD WELCOME THOUGHTS ON WAYS IN  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 12597 292003Z

WHICH HE MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON PURPOSES IN THE COURSE OF HIS CONVERSATIONS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, TO BE KEPT AS FULLY ABREAST AS POSSIBLE ON US VIEWS ON A CURRENT BASIS BETWEEN MEETINGS BETWEEN OWEN AND THE SECRETARY.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF JUDD'S COMMENTS, WE BELIEVE

THAT WE USEFULLY COULD RESPOND TO HIS INTEREST IN AS  
FULL AND TIMELY BRIEFINGS AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY  
SINCE THE BRITISH CONSISTENTLY HAVE BEEN THE FIRMEST  
SUPPORTERS AMONG OUR ALLIES ON OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICIES.  
SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE  
JUDD OUR VIEWS ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE IN OCTOBER  
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009